

## Message Text

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12

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 DODE-00 PM-04 L-03 SP-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 NSC-05 /047 R

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EA;RHMILLER

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DOD/ISA/EAPR:KWBLEAKLEY

PM/ISO:JSCOTT

EA/PHL:BAFLECK

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

----- 120591

R 162331Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 093275

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR,RP

SUBJECT:MILITARY BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. U.S. AND PHILIPPINE NEGOTIATING PANELS HEADED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO MET FOR ONE HOUR APRIL 12 IN OPENING SESSION OF U.S./PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

2. DURING HIS WELCOMING REMARKS, THE SECRETARY STRESSED  
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THAT IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS THE U.S. AND PHILIPPINES WERE

COMING TOGETHER AS FRIENDS TO ESTABLISH A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. HE ASSUMED WE MIGHT HAVE DISAGREEMENTS IN THESE DISCUSSIONS BUT THAT WE ARE CONFIDENT PROGRESS WILL BE MADE AND THAT WHAT WILL EMERGE WILL BE PERCEIVED TO BE A MAJOR STEP IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.

3. ROMULO'S OPENING REMARKS WERE VERY GENERAL AND DID NOT LAY DOWN ANY CONCRETE NEGOTIATING POSITIONS. REFERRING TO "NUMEROUS INCIDENTS INVOLVING FILIPINOS, FISCAL ABUSES AND OTHER INDIGNITIES", HE STRESSED THAT THE MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT AND THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT HAVE NEVER BEEN SATISFACTORY TO THE PHILIPPINES AND THAT THIS DISSATISFACTION HAS BEEN GROWING. ROMULO STRESSED, HOWEVER,

HE HAD NOT COME "TO ENGAGE IN FUTILE RECRIMINATIONS", BUT STATED "WE ARE NOT ENCUMBERED BY PROVISIONS OF ANY SUBSISTING MILITARY AGREEMENTS". WE MEET, HE SAID, AS "TRUE AND LONGTIME FRIENDS" TO PURSUE "NATIONAL INTERESTS WHICH HAVE CHANGED AS OUR SITUATION HAS CHANGED."

4. THE SECRETARY THEN POINTED OUT FORCEFULLY TO ROMULO THAT THE U.S. OPPOSES THE CONCEPT OF PAYING RENT FOR BASES. WE ARE, HOWEVER, PREPARED TO LOOK AT SOME SORT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE, AND THAT SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT WHAT WE HAVE DONE IN THE CASES OF TURKEY AND SPAIN, AND WHICH WE WILL PROBABLY DO IN RELATION TO GREECE, IS TO MAINTAIN THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE BASES ARE THERE FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE. IF, IN THE SPIRIT OF COMMON DEFENSE SOME OF THESE COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO REALIZE ALL OF THEIR OBJECTIVES BY THEIR OWN RESOURCES THEN WE ARE PREPARED TO SEEK A MULTI-YEAR AUTHORIZATION IN THE FORM OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE THAT WILL HELP THEM. IN THAT SENSE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO DO THE SAME FOR THE PHILIPPINES.

5. ROMULO REPLIED THAT THE PHILIPPINES FELT IT SHOULD BE COMPENSATED FOR PERMITTING THE U.S. TO USE THE BASES. THIS COMPENSATION SHOULD NOT BE A "SORT OF AN AID OR A DOLE OR A GRANT". IT WAS NOT NECESSARY, HOWEVER, TO CALL THE COMPENSATION "RENT".

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6. WITH REGARD TO PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY, THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT OUR DRAFT AGREEMENT REFERS TO PHILIPPINE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS. HE HOPED THAT ONCE THE PHILIPPINES HAD A CHANCE TO STUDY THE DRAFT THEY WOULD FIND IT ACCEPTABLE.

7. AT THIS POINT, OUR DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS PRESENTED TO

ROMULO. THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT ANY NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE PHILIPPINES WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS FOR APPROVAL BY JOINT RESOLUTION.

8. ROMULO SAID HE WOULD TAKE THE DRAFT HOME, STUDY IT AND PREPARE COMMENTS ON IT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE NEGOTIATING TEAMS MEET AGAIN IN MANILA IN EARLY JUNE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS. SECRETARY AGREED TO THIS PROPOSAL AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT AGREEMENT WOULD BE READY FOR SIGNATURE IN EARLY AUGUST WHEN HE HOPES TO VISIT MANILA.

COMMENT; OPENING SESSION WAS CONDUCTED IN EXTREMELY CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE. ROMULO APPEARED TO THINK THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD PROCEED RAPIDLY AND THAT NEW AGREEMENT COULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE END OF SUMMER. ROBINSON

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